



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 November 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
2 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Communist China

We have been expecting for some weeks that the fight in the Chinese leadership would soon reach a new and perhaps decisive stage. Now we see signs that this may be close at hand.

For one thing, recent speeches and press statements out of Peking make it clear that Mao and Lin Piao are determined to push their attack on the "opposition" even harder than in the past. The popular slogan, "beat the wild dog to death even while it is drowning" is indicative of the current mood.

Secondly, since mid-October the Red Guards have been putting up posters demanding the ouster of various leaders, some almost at the very top, but these people are still on the scene. This is strange business for a Communist country and can hardly last much longer.

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2. Korea

The North Korean raid yesterday now appears to have been in retaliation for a similar South Korean action on 26 October. The extent of the South Korean probe is still unclear, but reports of North Korean casualties run as high as thirty.

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3. South Korea

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President Johnson's visit to South Korea was an outstanding success. In the process, President Pak obtained obvious internal political advantages and the country as a whole got a healthy psychological lift.

4. Vietnam

President Marcos' proposal to U Thant for an all-Asian conference on Vietnam was a follow-up to discussions held when Marcos was at the UN last September. The Philippine statement that Burma would be willing to host the conference was based on vague indications of interest elicited from the Burmese at that time.

Burma maintains that Rangoon could be the site of peace negotiations if "both parties to the Vietnam conflict" so requested. On the other hand, Burma has refused a Philippine request to convey the decisions of the Manila conference to Hanoi.

5. South Vietnam

A recent Viet Cong appeal for its units to brace themselves for a coming US "counteroffensive" is an unprecedented admission of Viet Cong concern over expected allied offensives during the coming dry season.

The highly emotional harangue of the National Liberation Front contains few references to victory and makes much of the need to overcome hardships. It declares in defensive tones that "we must hold together, no matter how protracted and hard our struggle is, we will continue our fight and win."

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6. Israel

Debate in the Security Council on the Israeli-Syrian issue is expected to wind up at any time, but whatever the outcome, the odds are increasing that Israel will make a retaliatory move.

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7. West Germany

We have nothing substantial yet from the meeting of the Christian Democratic leadership which took place to-day.

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8. Soviet Union

[redacted] icebreaker Lenin has had a serious nuclear accident very recently "involving extreme damage and personnel injuries."

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9. Soviet Union

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10. West Africa

The quarrel between Guinea and Ghana remains on dead center. In Ghana, the chief of state tells us that he is standing firm and that if there is any more monkey business from Guinea he will add the return of Nkrumah from Guinea as a new condition for settlement.

In Guinea, Sekou Touré is obviously humiliated by Ghana's action and still feels that only through pressure on the US can he obtain the release of the prisoners in Ghana. Ambassador McIlvaine expects new moves against him, perhaps even "comfortable protective custody."

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